May-Day Souvenir

New Westminster, B. C.
1870-1908

With the Compliments of
His Honour Judge Howay

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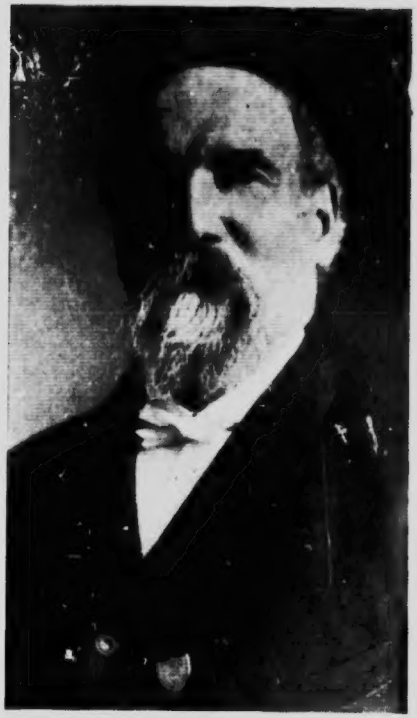

THE LATE COL. J. T. SCOTT

From the institution of May Day in this City in the year 1870, the late John T. Scott, familiarly called Colonel Scott, took enthusiastic interest in this unique annual festival. To the people of this City his name is a household word; and his merry smile and genial manner have endeared him to two generations of our children. To keep his memory green among us it has been thought opportune to reproduce the newspaper account of the first May Day, in which Colonel Scott took a very prominent part, together with a description of May Day, 1907, the last which he was permitted to attend.

This booklet is therefore respectfully dedicated to his memory.

New Westminster, B. C.,
May 1st, 1908.

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FIRST MAY DAY CELEBRATION, 1870.

Extract from The Mainland Guardian, April 27, 1870.

MAY DAY.—Our citizens, as will be seen from the advertisement, have arranged to celebrate May Day, and from what we learn, will provide entertainment after the true old English style for old and young. In a case like this we go in for confederation, as only that will produce the joyous influence of the holiday. Under the spell of bright eyes and hearty laughter union may follow. Let everybody be there.

Advertisement of first May Day. From The Mainland Guardian, April 27, 1870:

MAY DAY.

"Everybody and his wife and family are invited to the Cricket Ground on Monday, the 2nd of May, to celebrate May Day.
Luncheon will be provided for all.
All kinds of Games; Music and Dancing on the green, etc., etc.
The sports will commence at 12 o'clock."

From The Mainland Guardian, April 30, 1870.

MEETING OF FIREMEN.—A meeting of the Hyacks took place yesterday, when it was resolved to turn out on Monday next (May Day), when the engine would be decorated, and the firemen were expected to appear in uniform. Three of the members were delegated to confer with the May Day Committee, on the subject of selecting a "May Queen."

From The Mainland Guardian, April 30, 1870.

MAY DAY.—As our readers will perceive by the report of the meeting of the Hyacks, they have determined to celebrate May Day in a becoming manner. The engine will be handsomely decorated, and drawn by four horses, will be conveyed to the Cricket Ground. Mr. Scott has prepared a number of very handsome balloons which will be a great feature in the amusements. Altogether we can promise the lieges a day of thorough enjoyment.

From The Mainland Guardian, May 4, 1870.

MAY DAY DECORATIONS.—It is very pleasant to see our Citizens joining so heartily in the task of preparing the decorations for the celebration of this universal fete, as they were on Saturday. Old and young, great and small, assembled at the Cricket Ground to assist in erecting the booths formed of green boughs; the Marquee, tent, flag-staff and May Pole, which now give that beautifully situated piece of ground an appearance worthy of the olden time. The May Pole is charmingly decorated with the wild flowering currant, and bears a crown of flowers at the top, surmounted by the cross of St. George. This and the rustic booths were designed and erected under the superintendence of Mr. J. T. Scott, to whom they do infinite credit. A splendid flag-staff and a number of tall poles bearing flags have also been set up, which give quite a gay appearance to the scene. The Hyacks have not been idle; their fine machine is decorated as gaily as a bride prepared for her nuptials; this last was accomplished by Mr. Hugh Waters, who has performed his task in a manner worthy of all praise. The arrangements have been all carried out to an extent fully up to the most sanguine expectations, and should the weather prove favorable, a happy day of enjoyment will be the result.

From The Mainland Guardian, May 4, 1870.

MAY DAY.—Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the May Day celebration was postponed till to-day, when if the clerk of the weather is in good humor and Old Sol deigns to preside on the occasion, our citizens, old and young, will have a good time.

From The Mainland Guardian, May 7, 1870.

MAY DAY.—Old Sol got up on Wednesday morning, rather hazily, as if he had a "drop in his eye," but as Dick Swiveller would say, the "old man was agreeable," and looked down with a sort of quiet smile till the amusements of the day were over. At an early hour the toc's'n sounded from the Hyack tower, and the City and suburbs were awakened to a state of busy preparation. In due course the Hyacks began to assemble resplendent in red shirts, black pants, caps and belts; their band meanwhile enlivening the precincts of the Hall with merry strains. About noon the lovely damsel who had been "chosen by the people for a Queen," made her appearance, and was quickly enthroned on the Hyack machine, the "Fire King," amidst wreaths of ribbons and flowers, looking a very "Faerie Queene." The band then took the lead, and the Hyacks, under the superintendence of Capt. Fisher and Chief Engineer Johnston,

formed in marching order, and the procession started for the cricket ground; the sides of the road being lined with people, old and young, wending their way to the same point. When the procession had arrived on the ground, the Hyacks encircled the May-Pole. A nicely decorated throne had been erected for the "Queen," and in a short time was occupied by that august lady; the attendant maids of honor were placed in two rows. The vast assemblage having formed a wide circle round this centre of attraction, W. J. Armstrong, Esq., J. P., President of the Municipal Council, then addressed a short speech to Her Majesty, explanatory of the future acts of her reign. Meanwhile a forlorn-looking object, who was stated to be the "oldest bachelor" present, was made to place the crown on the fair young head, that waited to receive it. The unfortunate man muttered some words which our reporter did not think worth while to take note of; but we thought it the refinement of cruelty to bring the poor fellow into the midst of such a group of lovely young creatures, who must have made his miserable condition more glaringly apparent to all. We hope, for the sake of humanity, that some kindly disposed young lady will usher him into matrimonial bliss ere another May Queen ascends the throne. The ceremony of the coronation being over, the band appropriately struck up, "My Love Is But a Lassie Yet," and a pretty dance around the May-Pole ensued; each maid of honor accompanied by a "gladsome swaine" holding a piece of blue, red, or

white ribbon attached to the May Pole, in her hand. The whole affair was beautifully arranged by Mr. J. T. Scott, under whose special guidance this portion of the amusements rested; and the scene, novel in its character here, will long be remembered by our citizens. As our report will become a record, we shall here append the names of the young ladies who formed the royal court:

The May Queen, Miss Helen McColl; Maids of Honor, the Misses M. Scott, S. Irving, F. Woods, N. Dickenson, M. A. Edwards, M. M. Lee, M. Johnston, S. Burr, M. Morey, M. Burr, — Black, — Murray, — Bonson, — DeBeck, — Walsh, — Armstrong, — Webster, J. Harvey, — Musselwhite.

(The young ladies were, at the close of the amusements, each decorated with the order of the "Gold Star," attached to a blue ribbon, by Capt. Fisher, of the Hyacks).

After this, the assemblage proceeded to engage in the various sports in different portions of the extensive grounds. The little ladies and gentlemen of tender years formed a tremendous circle by joining hands and playing kiss in the ring; the more matured young ladies and gentlemen sought the delights of the "mazy dance."

Dr. Black played the part of the traditional "Bill Stiggins," and dealt out "three sticks for a bit" with all the drollery imaginable. He wore an excellent imitation of a celebrated editorial white castor, which elicited shouts of laughter. Although the players were not

always successful in knocking off the prizes from the sticks the funds of the committee of management received a very handsome addition from this source.

Long tables were ranged beneath the shade of the rustic booths where the substantials were profusely spread and where everybody and his wife and family regaled themselves free of charge. A copious supply of milk and cakes was provided for the juveniles, and viands in every form of roast and boiled, for the elders, in endless supply, with proper accompaniments; to all of which ample justice was done.

During the afternoon a party of gay maskers (four ladies and four gentlemen) came upon the ground, and after promenading through the midst of the throng, danced a quadrille with great eclat. They were received with a perfect shout of laughter, and the peculiar appearance of the "ladies" caused excessive merriment. The masquers were very well got up and did much to increase the enjoyment of the day.

Mr. J. T. Scott sent off several of his beautiful balloons; only one however travelling to any great distance, owing to the wind being a little too strong.

We have often participated in similar days, but certainly never "assisted" at one where the enjoyment was more universal or more completely without alloy. For this happy result we are indebted to the indefatigable exertions of Hon. A. T. Bushby and Messrs. W. J.

Armstrong, W. Fisher, J. T. Scott, Dr. Black, Hugh Waters, W. Johnston, and a number of other gentlemen, who never relaxed during the whole of the day in creating and stimulating the amusements. The gentlemen composing the fine band of Hyacks, deserve great credit for their untiring exertions. From morning till the close of the day, they could be heard discoursing sweet music "grave and gay," furnishing the great source of much of the day's happiness.

THE ROYAL LINE.

The following is an interesting list of the names of the May Queens since the first May Day festival:

Miss McColl (Mrs. Scoullier, Vancouver).
Miss Bonson (Mrs. Hoy).
Miss Eickhoff (Mrs. Keary).
Miss M. Scott (Mrs. Kelly).
Miss J. Harvey (Mrs. G. Turnbull).
Miss Irvine (Mrs. Spencer).
Miss Johnston (Mrs. C. Warwick).
Miss Morey (Mrs. Insley Brown).
Miss Josephine Eickhoff (Mrs. Leishman).
Miss Maude Williams (Mrs. C. A. Welsh).
Miss Maggie Rogers (dead).
Miss Florence Hubbard (address unknown).
Miss Gertie McBride (Mrs. Allison).
Miss Mamie Wise (Mrs. Mackenrot).
Miss Annie Turner (Mrs. Grant).
Miss Dollie Mead (Mrs. F. S. DeGrey).
Miss May Douglas (Mrs. T. J. Lewis).
Miss Helen Ross (Mrs. W. C. Chamberlin).
Miss Maud Hatherly (Mrs. W. Gifford).

Miss McPhadden (Mrs. G. Wood).
Miss Emily Gardiner (Mrs. Stark, Vancouver).
Miss Gladys Townsend (Mrs. Turner, Nelson).
Miss Beryl Briggs.
Miss Gertie Moncrief (Mrs. Cannon).
Miss Dorothy Thompson (Mrs. Cameron, Vancouver).
Miss Ella Cotton.
Miss Maggie Gifford.
Miss Ethel Ross.
Miss Alvina Munn.
Miss Alexie Ewen.
Miss Alden Hendry.
Miss Molly Fletcher (Mrs. H. P. Latham).
Miss Winnie Keary.
Miss Manuella Briggs.
Miss Alice McNamara.
Miss Myrtle Starrett.
Miss Annie Tidy.
Miss Kathleen Dashwood-Jones.

MAY-DAY, 1907

Columbian Co., Ld., New Westminster